CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A portable device, comprising:

2   an interface to receive at least one file and a transfer count associated with

3   the file from another device; and

4   a controller to be communicatively coupled to the interface, the controller

5   to allow transfer of the file based on the associated transfer count.

1   2.   The portable device of claim 1, wherein the interface receives at least one

2   file containing digital music.

1   3.   The portable device of claim 2, wherein the interface receives the

2   associated transfer count embedded in the file.

1   4.   The portable device of claim 1, wherein the controller allows a selected

2   number of transfers of the file based on the value indicated by the transfer count.

1   5.   The portable device of claim 1, wherein the controller transfers the file

2   and decrements the associated transfer count by one in response to a successful transfer.

1   6.   The portable device of claim 1, wherein the interface receives a copy of

2   the file, and wherein the file is an encrypted file.

1   7.   The portable device of claim 1, wherein the portable device is a Secure

2   Digital Music Initiative compliant device.

1   8.   The portable device of claim 1, wherein the interface receives the file from
2   another portable device.

1   9.   The portable device of claim 1, wherein the controller to allow transfer of
2   the file comprises the controller to allow transmission of a copy of the file.

1   10.   A method, comprising:
2   selecting at least one music file from a first portable device to transfer to a
3   second portable device;
4   transferring the music file to the second portable device; and
5   transmitting a preselected transfer count to the second portable device,
6   wherein the preselected transfer count is indicative of the number of times the second
7   portable device may transfer the music file to one or more devices.

1   11.   The method of claim 10, wherein transferring the music file comprises
2   transferring an encrypted music file.

1   12.   The method of claim 10, wherein transferring the encrypted file comprises
2   transmitting a copy of the encrypted music file to the second portable device.

1   13.   The method of claim 10, wherein transmitting the preselected transfer
2   count comprises transmitting a preselected transfer count of zero.

1   14.   The method of claim 10, further comprising accessing a transfer count
2   associated with the file in the first portable device and updating the transfer count in
3   response to successfully transferring the music file to the second portable device.

1   15.   The method of claim 14, wherein updating the transfer count comprises
2   decrementing the transfer count in the first portable device by one.

1   16.   The method of claim 10, wherein transferring the music file comprises

2   transmitting a copy of the music file to the second portable device.

1   17.   An article comprising one or more machine-readable storage media

2   containing instructions that when executed enable a processor to:

3   receive at least one music file and a transfer count associated with the

4   music file from another device, wherein the transfer count is indicative of the number of

5   times the music file may be transferred to one or more of devices; and

6   store at least one of the music file and the associated transfer count.

1   18.   The article of claim 17, wherein the instructions when executed enable the

2   processor to allow the music file to be transferred to the one or more devices based on the

3   transfer count.

1   19.   The article of claim 18, wherein the instructions when executed enable the

2   processor to reduce the transfer count by one in response to each successful transfer of

3   the music file to the one or more devices.

1   20.   The article of claim 19, wherein the instructions when executed enable the

2   processor to transmit a preselected transfer count for the music file transferred to the one

3   or more devices, wherein the preselected transfer count indicates the number of times the

4   file may be transferred by the one or more devices.

1   21.   The article of claim 20, wherein the instructions when executed enable the

2   processor to transfer the preselected transfer count indicating that no further transfers by

3   the one or more devices are allowed.

1   22.   The article of claim 17, wherein the instructions when executed enable the

2   processor to receive the transfer count embedded in the music file.

1   23.   A portable music player, comprising:

2   an interface to communicate with a remote portable music player; and

3   a controller communicatively coupled to the interface, the controller to:

4   allow a user to select at least one music file to transfer to the

5 remote portable music player;

6   determine if transfer of the selected file is allowed;

7   transmit the selected file to the remote portable music player in

8 response to determining that the transfer is allowed; and

9   transmit an indication to the remote portable music player

10 indicating the number of times the remote portable music player may transfer the

11 transmitted file.

1   24.   The portable music player of claim 23, wherein the controller reduces a

2 transfer count associated with the transmitted file.

1   25.   The portable music player of claim 23, wherein the controller transmits the

2 selected file to a Secure Digital Music Initiative compliant music player.

1   26.   A system comprising:

2   a host computer; and

3   a portable device communicatively coupled to the host computer, the

4 portable device to receive from the host computer at least one music file and a transfer

5 count associated with the music file, wherein the transfer count is indicative of the

6 number of times the portable device may transfer the music file.

1   27.   The system of claim 26, wherein the portable device is a music player.

1   28.   The system of claim 26, wherein the portable device receives the transfer

2 count indicating that the portable device may not transfer the music file to other devices.

1   29.   The system of claim 26, wherein the portable device is a Secure Digital

2   Music Initiative compliant portable device.

1   30.   The system of claim 26, wherein the portable device further transfers the

2   music file to another device based on determining that the transfer count is greater than

3   one.